



## What is 'Mind the Gap'? Have you lost the plot?

by Alan Hodges, BUC Ldi co-ordinator



Maybe you are among the many who watched the 'Evidence' programmes in March. You enjoyed seeing familiar faces on your television screens such as Gillian Joseph, Ken Burton, Paul Lee and others. You were interested in the interviews and were moved by the inspiring presentations by Pastor Dwight Nelson. You even encouraged your non-Adventist friends to watch and discuss the various topics presented in the ten programmes. But when the series was over you thought that was it.

Well, that was not it.

- LIFEdevelopment.info started with 'Get Connected', level one, where we encouraged every member to make friends with unchurched secular people.
- We provided a tool in the form of the *LIFE.info* magazine, which could be used as a means of contact with people in our communities.

- The 'Evidence' series of programmes formed level two in the concept of LIFEdevelopment.info and was a series which stirred people's thinking on such questions as, 'Why do Christians believe in a God? How does God communicate with us? How can we find healing for the hurt and pain we have suffered or the pain we have caused? Very relevant questions in our world today.'

Now we have reached level three – 'Mind the Gap' – ten programmes introducing basic Christianity which is authentic and has a deep intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. These programmes will cover the topics of **Faith, Bible, Prayer, Jesus Who?, Jesus' death and resurrection, Jesus' second coming, Holy Spirit, Human Nature, Healing, Fellowship**, and will be broadcast on the Hope Channel in February 2005.

- The 'plot' is to make friends and then seek to move them on to the next level, to bring them to the point where they are ready to receive and accept the biblical beliefs which we as a people are called to proclaim in these last days of world history.

Even level three is not the end of the road for LIFEdevelopment.info. There will be seven levels in all, and when we are finished with all seven it's back to the beginning, making contacts, making friends, because that's what the Great Commission is all about.

If you have not got involved yet, why not start today? If you want to know more, call the LIFEdevelopment Office on 01923 672251, write to us at LIFEdevelopment, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ, or email us at [ask@LIFEdevelopment.info](mailto:ask@LIFEdevelopment.info).

## Leeds: Nothing but the Truth

by Ian Sweeney

The football team may have gone down and been relegated from the Premier League, but the Adventist church in Leeds is definitely on the way up. For the first time in its history the membership has gone up to over 200 people.

This increase in membership was due, in no small measure, to the success of the fourth annual 'Nothing but the Truth' Gospel festival, which ran from 17 July to 7 August, with evangelist Dr Cornelius Matandiko. Dr Matandiko, a Zambian national who lectures at the University of Eastern Africa in Kenya, brought great warmth, passion, humour and a personal love for Jesus in his preaching.

Telling us the story of Jesus, he also captured our attention with

stories from the 'motherland' Africa. He called it the 'land of milk and honey', but told us on the opening night, 'You will need to bring your own cows and bees!' His refreshing and innovative style of preaching simple truths and African stories witnessed record attendances through the course of the meetings.

The powerful preaching of Dr Matandiko was complemented by the music ministry of singers from the Leeds church as well as Charles Ngandwe, winner of the 'Stars in Their Eyes' television programme. More than one visitor was witnessed pointing to him and muttering, 'That's the man off the TV!'

God blessed the church with 33 baptisms during the meetings, a record number for Leeds, which

means that not only is the membership going up, the building is going up too – quite literally. With over 300 people regularly packing the church each Sabbath, the membership saw the need for additional seating. In looking up to God in prayer, they were directed to look up at their church building. The answer

to additional seating was above their heads. For over forty years a sealed-off balcony has lain derelict and unused. Indeed many members were not even aware that there was a balcony in the church! The membership is now engaged in opening and restoring the balcony, which will provide an additional 200 seats.





## Retirees' Camp

by Tony Welch

Family responsibilities have prevented my wife and me from attending any of the camps at Aberdaron for the last five summers but that restraint solved itself a few months ago.

Being free again, at last, to go where we want, when we want, we didn't need to take a long time in deliberation when we saw the Retirees' Camp advertised on the BUC news. But it was a different Aberdaron we saw when we arrived. Gone were the old unsightly caravans, replaced by very attractive wooden chalets, a flower garden blooming in front of the cottage, the grass neatly trimmed. The oval lawn in front of the hall was comparatively level and bordered by a neat path. The hedges were trimmed and the undergrowth cleared. The building was newly painted and the car park laid with slate chippings.

Soon sixteen campers had arrived and taken up residence in the chalets. Ages? From 66 to 93! From the recently retired Oscar Stewart and his wife to Alice Bell who has been retired for just a few years

longer! There were old friendships to be renewed and news ones to form. All were welcomed by Malcolm and Loraine Hayles who have been responsible for the transformation of the site and were to be our hosts. Loraine did the cooking assisted by her mother, Ursula Hubbard, and Malcolm waited on us at table.



And what good food we had all week. We nicknamed Loraine 'Eve' as she tempted us to eat far more than we should with all her delicious dishes.

We arrived on Monday 20 September. On Tuesday a full-day trip by coach was arranged through

Snowdonia but our driver took us, at our request, on a very nostalgic trip down to Dinas Dinlle, the site of the camps in the 1950s which a few of us remember so well and even did our courting there! The wind blew but even that brought back memories!

Wednesday was a free day when everyone did their own thing. Thursday saw us all becoming children again as we took to the Ffestiniog Railway and enjoyed the wonderful views in the autumn sun with the waterfalls in full flow. Friday saw us on the coach again to spend a few hours in the enchantment of Portmeiron and again we were blessed with sunshine.

Pastor Derek Beardsall and his wife Joy were not only our tour leaders but also our spiritual leaders as Derek brought us gems from the book of Romans morning and evening with his great understanding and good humour.

All too soon it was Sunday morning and time to pack and make our way home. I felt myself looking forward to next year's retirees' camp with just the same impatience and enthusiasm as I had on leaving my first junior camp at Cayton Bay in 1947! Our thanks go to Malcolm and Loraine, who have done so much to improve the site and who made this camp possible and made us so welcome.

with Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

## A glow in the dark?

Through the years great minds have been exercised as to whether or not the light is on in the fridge after the door has closed! Somehow in spite of assurances that the light goes off there is still an element of doubt that some entertain. However, the 'glow' in the title does not refer to the fridge light but the possibility of having irradiated food stored there, and the uncertainties still remain.

Food radiation has been studied for the past fifty years and is an enduring issue. If the unleashing of atomic power had not come about during WW2 there might have been less debate about radiation today. As it is, the health science professionals are polarised in the arguments surrounding irradiation.

While the World Health Organisation and the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation, along

with the American Academy of Paediatrics, American Medical Association and the Infectious Diseases Society of America, all endorse food irradiation, there is strong opposition to the very idea in Europe and the UK.

Pro-irradiation scientists believe that the process could save around 300 lives and prevent 900,000 cases of food-borne illness in the US alone per annum just by irradiating 50 per cent of the meat and poultry consumed by Americans. Irradiating (using gamma rays, electron beams or X-rays) kills parasites and bacteria. *Escherichia coli*, *salmonella*, *listeria*, and *campylobacter*, all associated with food-poisoning worldwide, could be dramatically reduced in incidence by irradiation which also extends the shelf-life of various perishable food items.

The general public are concerned

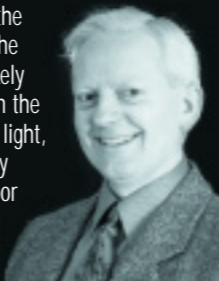
that irradiated food may lead to people suffering the effects of radiation and worry about such conditions as radiation sickness and those associated with some cancer treatments. Research shows that people do not become radioactive as a result of eating irradiated food, and that the nutritional values of the foods subjected to the technique are essentially unchanged. There is in any case change in the nutritional status of foods undergoing storage or in cooking.

Scientists antagonistic to food irradiation are generally agreed that further studies on the health effects of irradiation are necessary before irradiation is accepted as a routine food preservative operation. Their 'feet dragging' has some justification. German and French researchers in 2002 found that *2-alkylcyclobutanones* unique to irradiated foods promotes tumour growth in laboratory animals subjected to irradiation in strong doses. Further research will determine whether or not humans

will have a similar reaction if consuming foods irradiated at high levels of radiation.

While the EU permitted the sale of some irradiated foods such as fruits and poultry, it imposed a moratorium in 2002, following the publication of the research, on the expansion of the range of foods permitted to be irradiated.

Perhaps the most worrying concern of those opposed to irradiation is that the process could conceal unsanitary practices in food handling. However 'good' irradiation may prove to be, its usefulness could still be limited by the human element. 'Wait and see' is the current state of affairs. For the time being the only glow likely to be seen in the fridge is the light, and that only when the door is open!



## Making failure work for you



with David Marshall

Can you cope with failure? Never had to? You will. It comes to us all at some stage. It's what you *do* with failure that matters. How you learn from it. It is there that God can help.

Failure is often associated with loss. Some lose jobs, some friends, some spouses (to death or by desertion). Others lose positions they have won by hard work over a long period.

In the business world there is a ruthlessness that undermines, unseats and destroys. Those over 50 find it especially tough.

In the media world life is merciless and uncertain for the over-50s. Ten years ago I edited a book written by a prominent member of the BBC news team. In connection with the book launch we met up with a couple of his BBC colleagues and one female member of the ITN team. The reporters/presenters compared experiences. All, it appeared, were of 'a certain age', but still a long

way from retirement. All were aware of a move by the TV corporations to replace those perceived as 'past their sell-by date' with 'bright young things'. Inside a year all, save one, had disappeared from our screens.

It is fitting, perhaps, that the media world should be pitiless, because the media (the newspapers in particular) are pitiless in their treatment of all those caught up in the sports, entertainment and political circus. Images are made and then relentlessly picked at until they are pulled apart. What must it feel like to be a public figure in the pulling apart stage?

So how would *you* cope? How *will* you cope?

I'm fascinated by the biblical King David. Remember his rise and rise? Anointed by Samuel. Court musician. Victor over Goliath. With Saul's army, he battled the Philistines and beat them (1 Samuel 19:8). 'The army loved him, the people wrote songs about him.'<sup>1</sup> *And Saul didn't like it!*

That was when David began to learn about failure. One by one it was as if all his 'props' were knocked away:

- As a result of Saul's jealousy David lost his position at Court and in the army. *He lost his job.*
- David's establishment embrace had included marriage to King Saul's daughter Michal (1 Samuel 18:20, 21). When Saul first turned on David, Michal deceived her father and made possible her husband's escape and flight. But Michal's deception turned sour. *David lost his wife.*
- David fled to Samuel who had anointed him king in the first place (1 Samuel 19:18). Saul found out where he was. Three unsuccessful attempts were made by Saul's army to capture David and Samuel. Then Saul decided to see to the matter himself. He, too, was powerless against David but, nevertheless, made it necessary for him to escape and move on in search of another friend and protector. Shortly afterwards, Samuel died. *David lost his wise, supportive mentor.*
- David's next refuge was his great friend, Saul's son Jonathan. Valiantly, Jonathan took on David's cause. An oath was sworn between the two friends. But political pressures must have driven them apart, geographically at least (1 Samuel 20:42). *David lost his closest friend.*
- All David had was himself, his self-respect: that was his last prop. He lost it by fleeing to Gath and offering his services to – of all people – the king of the



Philistines (1 Samuel 21:11-13). David ended up by feigning lunacy to save his skin.<sup>2</sup> The response of the Philistine King Achish: 'Am I short of madmen that you bring this one to plague me?' (1 Samuel 21:16, NEB.) *David lost his self-respect.*

All the props had gone.

*And David was still running.*

David's had been a zero to hero story. But when he escaped Philistia, he was not back to zero. We are into minus quantities.

This is what Alan Redpath says: 'In the development of Christian character there sometimes come moments when darkness seems to fall, the sun seems to set, and to the man himself everything seems lost. Other people, observing his life, wonder if he is sinking beyond all hope of recovery. It is to such a moment that David's life had now come.'<sup>3</sup>

Such times, says Redpath, happen 'only that he [God] may test our faith, only that he may ultimately accomplish his purpose for our lives in a way that he would never do if the path were always smooth'. When we're down from hero to zero and into minus quantities – all but subsumed beneath problems and difficulties – God's man/woman is learning lessons s/he would never learn otherwise.

Twice the narrative identified fear as the root of the fall and fall that followed David's rise and rise: fear of Saul, fear of Achish (Samuel 21:10, 12). Fear is always the enemy of faith. We grow and we triumph as faith overcomes fear.

But David had not done falling yet. He was still running. His props removed, David ran into a cave. God had an appointment with him in the cave. That cave would prove the learning classroom that would prepare David for the throne for which God had already chosen him. It takes a moment to make a convert. It takes a lifetime to make a saint.

From the cave, says Redpath, 'David looked at God through the threatening clouds of opposition and trouble, instead of looking down at circumstances through the rain-bow of God's love.'<sup>4</sup> David, for a time, thought he was a failure. He had certainly lost 20:20 spiritual vision. But, despite that loss, God could work with David. Adullam, writes John Ortberg, is the 'cave named Failure . . . the cave . . . where you end up when your props, supports and crutches get stripped away. . . . Nobody plans on ending up in the cave, but sooner or later everybody logs some time there. . . . *The cave is where God does some of his best work in moulding and shaping human lives.*'<sup>5</sup>

For ten years God had David in the cave-and-wilderness classroom preparing him for mission. At times, doubtless, David thought of himself as a failure. In the end he knew that, all the time, he had been a learner.

In that cave David ended up surrounded by 400 other people – whingers and whiners – who perceived themselves failures.

He hit the pits when he lost even their support.

After that David had nothing and no one – except God.

*And he found that God was enough* (1 Samuel 30:6).

Could it be that his arrival at that realisation was the reason why the props had been knocked away? The reason he had been permitted to live through all those 'failure' experiences?

Failures come to us all. It's what we do with them that matters: *what we learn from them.*

References:

<sup>1</sup>John Ortberg, *If You Want to Walk On Water You've Got to Get Out of the Boat* (Zondervan, 2001), page 137. <sup>2</sup>Jonathan Kirisch, *King David: The Real Life of the Man Who Ruled Israel* (Ballantine, 2000), page 83. <sup>3</sup>Alan Redpath, *The Making of a Man of God: Studies in the Life of David* (Fleming H. Revell, 1962), page 67. <sup>4</sup>Ibid, page 68. <sup>5</sup>John Ortberg, op cit, pages 138, 139. Italics supplied.





## Mayor honours toddlers' group

On Thursday 16 September Bournemouth church was visited by the Mayor of Bournemouth, who joined in the Mother and Toddlers Sunshine Club's fifth anniversary.

The Club was founded five years ago by Joy Elliot as an outreach to serve the local community. Today there is a waiting list for mothers and babies to join. In fact, the club is so successful that a bi-weekly group is now established for the older ones who have progressed on to nursery school.

The church took this opportunity to present the Mayor, Mrs Emily Morrell-Cross, with a copy of *Messiah*, an updated version of *The Desire of Ages*. A grandmother herself, she acknowledged how important it was that local churches support their local communities in this way, offering support to mothers with new babies and toddlers, and establishing a friendly, safe environment to make new friends at this demanding time of their lives.

JUDITH CASSIDY

## National Eisteddfod of Wales

The National Eisteddfod of Wales was held at Newport this year and the Adventist Church had a presence there for the first time in three years. Two years ago the 'Churches Together in Wales' (CYTUN) decided to have one large tent instead of individual exhibitions for each church. After observing this experiment we decided to have our own stand this year.

It was good to meet so many friends once again and answer more enquiries than ever. There seemed to

be a special interest in the relationship of the Sabbath to Christian belief and practice. We now realise that there is a change for the good in the attitude of other churches to Seventh-day Adventists in Wales.

This year we highlighted the Aberdaron Camp site and the fortieth anniversary of the Special Needs Camp. Many visitors were interested in this aspect of the work and some said that they had been visiting Aberdaron for years without realising that the Adventists have a presence there. We were grateful for the excellent display provided by Malcolm Hayles.



# Evangelism in Edmonton

by Sharon Platt-McDonald

Having accepted a preaching appointment at the Edmonton church, I was surprised to hear that I would be expected to get up at the break of day and deliver *two* sermons on the same day – 8.30am and 11.15am.

I was aware of churches having multiple services to accommodate capacity crowds in other denominations, and a few Adventist churches around the world where evangelism was progressing at exceptional rates. Could this possibly be the case for Edmonton? I was about to find out.

As I stepped onto the platform at a little after 8.30, I was thrilled to find an engaging congregation expressing their joy in a lively song service. The atmosphere was so charged with the presence of God that any nerves and tiredness I was feeling were taken away. The evangelistic fervour was palpable!

We were grateful for the number of helpers on the stand and would particularly like to thank Cliff Tomos and Michael Sammons for their support throughout the week.

We gave out a large quantity of literature: around one thousand FOCUS magazines, a large number of these on Celtic Christianity, and, in less than two days, over 500 LIFE.info magazines. Because we were in a more anglicised area of Wales, we gave out these English magazines with an up-to-date Welsh leaflet containing a brief account of the growth of church membership and churches world-wide. The leaflet also contained a summary of our beliefs, and we distributed a leaflet on *The Road to Salvation* and several copies of *Steps to Christ* in Welsh.

Next year the Eisteddfod will be held near Caernarvon and will be in the Welsh-speaking heartland. The preparation of literature is under way for that event. In 2006 the Eisteddfod will be in Swansea. Please pray that many will become interested in following the Saviour as we build a bridge to the Welsh-speaking areas of the Mission.

DR BRIAN PHILLIPS

### Focus on lay evangelism

In keeping with the theme of Lay Evangelism 2004, Rodger Duncan, a lay preacher from the Caribbean Union Conference, was invited to speak for two weeks, but the zeal of the members and the response from the community with a capacity audience six days a week was so pressing that the campaign was extended for a further five weeks.

Raymond Hilton (a theology student from Northern Caribbean University) assisted on occasional nights and led the daily Bible studies and community visits. His work with the Enfield church is still bearing fruit. Six more candidates were baptised on 16 October.

### Campaign reflections

Among the numerous comments which the members made on the campaign were these: 'Evangelist Rodger Duncan gave us a solid doctrinal base', 'I could see the power of God at work', 'I found the speaker very inspiring', 'Amazing', 'Fantastic', 'He appealed to all groups; no one was excluded', 'Often at campaigns we offer standards and regulations; we need to offer Jesus. Pastor Hilton offered Jesus in such a way that no one could walk away from it.'

The newly-baptised members were eager to share their testimonies with me and as I documented their stories, I could hardly keep up! As I sat in the circle of members new and old, I caught a glimpse of what it must have been like to belong to the early Church.

As the numerous testimonies were shared I realised that this was not just another event in the annual church calendar, but that this campaign had left an indelible mark on Edmonton. It had significantly impacted lives.

I was intrigued by the testimony from Paulette Williams who runs her own shipping company. During the campaign she was convicted of the Sabbath and made a decision to close her shop on Sabbaths to attend church. This caused initial concern as Saturday trade made up 50% of her earnings. With faith and



much prayer she was baptised and gave her business concerns to God. Instead of a financial deficit, she has seen three times the amount in profit since becoming an Adventist!

Paulette now gets up at 4am to study God's Word prior to her busy schedule of preparing her children for school and running her business from 9.30 to 5.30. She counts her baptism as the best decision she has ever made.

I asked her where she saw herself now in light of the campaign experience: 'If I could give up my job and work for the ministry, I would be the happiest person. ... There is just so much to learn and so little time to do it. ... I wish I could invest all my time into searching the word.'

### Campaign preparation

The planning prior to the campaign was exceptional. A home visitation group was formed, but it was a team with a difference. The group members undertook a personality profile to ascertain whom they were best suited to work with. In order to match individuals interested in Bible study with the visitation groups, their age range, gender, social class and race were matched with that of the group members. This was felt to be beneficial in order to enhance communication and bonding. Group members were also taught the elements of effective communication.

### Ministering to needs

Another unique approach was that the professional roles of the members were utilised in the campaign, in particular within the visitation group. This was especially successful with the social workers, who were able to address some of the social issues that visitors and Bible students faced.



### Anointing service

The anointing service during the campaign was remarkable. This was extended to individuals who felt they needed a breakthrough in certain aspects of their lives. Husbands and wives were anointed together to live a more united family life. Singles were anointed to be more focused and committed in their spiritual walk.

### Prison ministry

As part of the Edmonton evangelism outreach, Pastor Roy Chisholm and the evangelism team took the campaign preacher to the Wormwood Scrubs prison (regularly visited by the Edmonton church). There they ministered to 140 inmates in two services. One of the unique features of this service was the special prayer and anointing done for each prisoner who came forward following an invitation to receive Jesus. The prison wardens were amazed and in awe of the calmness and solemnity of the service.

Initially, Pastor Chisholm had informed the chaplain about the procedure. When the call was made, all the prisoners surged forward to the altar. They were so eager not to miss out on this blessing. There was some initial anxiety from the officers, but the chaplain instructed the prison officers to remain calm as the Edmonton team were experienced

with this type of service.

A number of prisoners were crying at the altar, overcome by the occasion. Many thanked the team for the opportunity for this life-changing experience. Afterwards many confessed their grief for the impact of their crime. Prayer requests were made for their children, wives and

especially their mothers.

### Baptism

The five-week campaign from 26 June to 7 August culminated in a baptism on 7 August when thirty-three individuals gave their lives to Jesus. A further baptism was undertaken on Sabbath 16 October with eight candidates, six of whom will be attending Enfield church.

### After-care

The level of care and attention that went into the preparation of individuals for baptism was extended to their spiritual after-care. Pastor Chisholm decided to undertake an event for the new members to build a foundational grounding in the doctrines. The main themes highlighted were: The reading of the Word; The place and importance of prayer and witnessing, without which the Christian life becomes stagnant.

The weekend of 3-5 September was spent with the newly-baptised members in Chapel Porth, Cornwall, for nurturing and discipleship. Fifty-five people attended, over thirty being new believers.

The weekend entailed a series of activities ministering to the temporal, spiritual and social needs of the group. These included early morning devotions, prayer sessions, seminars, group study, walks to the beach, canoeing, sightseeing, etc.

Accompanying the new members and sharing their caravan, were the spiritual guardians elected to nurture them on an ongoing basis. The weekend was a phenomenal success. Since then, repeated requests have been made for similar events and for them to be included annually in the calendar of church events.

### Impact

Pastor Chisholm reports that the co-operation of the members, the willingness to be engaged, the changing of attitudes and the calibre of services has improved dramatically since the campaign. Testimonies of restored relationships, conversions and commitments abound.

A keen visitor from another denomination has chosen to pay her tithe through the Edmonton church as a direct result of the power of God demonstrated during the campaign and from the contact she encountered with the visitation group prior to the campaign.

Equally impressive has been the development of new initiatives. Two divine services continue in order to facilitate the growing church membership and visitors.

Pastor's Bible class on Sabbath morning is overflowing. It is used as a platform for nurturing new believers and training potential teachers.

Sunday evening Bible class has been re-established as part of the nurturing process and as an extension of the evangelistic arm of the church.

As a direct result of the campaign and the overspill of the membership in the fellowship hall, the church has voted to have a new church plant with emphasis on continued nurturing of new members and community evangelism. This has seen the leading of the Lord in this venture in that the Edmonton Salvation Army has extended a warm welcome to the Edmonton church. They have offered the use of their church building in addition to the hall for worship on Sabbaths and Tuesday evenings at a very reasonable rent. Edmonton was informed by the Army captain that it was the first time that the Salvation Army has agreed to rent their sanctuary.

Thank God for the positive witness and community engagement that the Edmonton and Enfield churches have demonstrated through tireless service to God.



# Life without a will

by Patrick Boyle

By a strange economic quirk many, many ordinary working and middle class people have become wealthy, but not necessarily with immediate personal benefit.

The excessive rises in house prices have pushed hundreds of thousands of home owners into the inheritance tax category. This can be a problem and it will become more so if the government reclassify houses according to market values and they move into higher bands.

Under existing tax law inheritance tax does not apply when the estate passes to a surviving spouse or is donated to charity.

When inheritance tax does apply it means that any inheritance is liable to a tax of 40% on anything above £262,000. This means all possessions, including home, savings, valuables, etc,

which total in value or exceed £262,000. The 40% tax must be paid before the will can be executed. The level of trust between the taxman and the population is zero.

**If a person dies without making a will it can result in difficulties for a variety of reasons.** Not the least of these is that there may be expectations regarding inheritance which are not realised. The result unfortunately may be estrangements between families.

Should someone who has no living relatives die without making a will, the estate passes to the state. A will could have directed the estate to more worthy ends.

**Don't neglect to make clear provision for spouse, children or other dependants.** That is also an important reason for making a will.

It is wisdom to make a will because we then have the assurance that our estate will be disposed of in accordance with our wishes.

There are many sound reasons why we should make a will and they are not related to age. In the modern world it makes good sense for all of us who have resources to make a will. Not to make a will can have consequences that can be detrimental and hurtful to our dependants and those we love. If we have made a will it is sensible to review it every few years. Both our circumstances and taxation laws can change.

**Making a will is a fairly straightforward process.** You can make a will yourself. You can go to a solicitor. You can use the Church's Trust Services. When making a will yourself you might neglect some important aspects through lack of

foresight. A solicitor will charge you up to £120. The Church's Trust Services are free and totally confidential. **The important fact is that we should make a will and review it as our circumstances change.** This is not something we should neglect. It does not make good sense to live without a 'will'.

However you choose to make your will, the essential element is that you appoint executors who will carry out your wishes as you desire. Making a will gives you peace of mind that your intentions for the disposal of your estate will be carried out.

You can obtain information about the Church's Trust Services from your local Mission president or by contacting the British Union Conference, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD17 1PZ. Phone: 01923 672251. Fax: 01923 893212.

You can contact directly the South England Conference, 25 St Johns Road, Watford, Herts, WD17 1PZ. Phone: 01923 232728. Fax: 01923 250582, or North England Conference, 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham, NG3 5DB. Phone: 0115 9606312. Fax: 0115 9691476.

**PASTOR MAURICE WALTER CUTHBERT (1919-2004) d. 15 July.** Pastor Cuthbert died at Truro hospital following a relatively brief period of illness. One of the last lifetime missionaries in Africa, Maurice's biography is a rich canvas of experience. Born in Dereham, Norfolk, he was the second son born to William and Florence Cuthbert, who became Adventists as a result of reading *The Great Controversy*, sold to the family by colporteur Brother Green, and were both disowned by their families for doing so. William and Florence graduated from Stanborough Missionary College in 1915, William having supported his studies as a literature-evangelist. Ordained in 1920, he and his wife were called to serve in Egypt in 1921, but transferred to Tanganyika in 1922. The family, which by then included sons Ray and Maurice (aged 4), sailed from Southampton to Mombassa via the Suez Canal. In Kenya the family trekked one hundred and fifty miles on foot from Lake Victoria to a new mission station at Ntusa. The hard life of outpost mission resulted in Ray and Maurice having to be repatriated, suffering the effects of malnutrition, and the brothers spent some time at the Stanborough School. The boys later rejoined their parents in Africa, where William was called to be the Field secretary of the East African Union in 1930. East Africa was to be the work arena for Ray and Maurice, with Ray becoming one of the most prominent and respected businessmen in Kenya, and Maurice working in a number of important business



posts. Maurice served as an officer in the British Army from 1939 to 1945 and was demobbed as a Captain. He was also awarded an MBE. Maurice lived a traumatic life, being saved in 1940 from a 'Rendezvous with Death', as recorded in Pastor R. H. Pierson's book *507 Illustrations*. He found his murdered father's body near Eldorat in 1945. During the war years, on 26 February 1943, Maurice married Theunisina (Theunie) DeLange from a well-respected Adventist family in Nairobi at a service conducted by Pastor M. C. Murdoch. Pastor Duncan Eva invited Maurice into denominational employment in 1952 and he was appointed secretary-treasurer of the Kissi Field in Kenya. Subsequent appointments led to secretary-treasurership of the Tanganyika Union, where he strongly supported the publishing work (and established the first church in Dar-es-Salaam) and in which Union he was ordained to the Gospel ministry. In 1961 Pastor Cuthbert, with Theunie, Denise and Maurice (Jnr), moved to the USA, where he studied at Columbia Union College. On return to Africa, Maurice was appointed circulation manager at the Sentinel Publishing House in Cape Town. This was followed by a period as auditor at the Southern Union in Johannesburg, treasurer at the Inyazura Field, president/secretary/treasurer - Zambia Field, Zambia Union and Matebeleland Field. In all these places Maurice relished training indigenous workers, the publishing work and the building of Mission facilities. He returned to the Southern Union as the local representative of the GC/TAD Auditing department where it was the pleasure and privilege of the writer to have Maurice as a friend, neighbour, and respected colleague when serving as director of

Adventist Health Services in Johannesburg. Immediately prior to his retirement to the UK, Maurice served as the treasurer for the Southern Union. Retirement became 'retirement' as Maurice pastored in Hanwell and Southall churches in London before joining son Maurice and family in Cornwall and pastoring the Bodmin church with Pastor Ron Edwards. During this pastorate Maurice was the District leader, overseeing the Devon and Cornwall churches. Pastor Maurice Cuthbert was a tireless worker for his Master and would not sit back while there was work to be done. His funeral service, conducted by Pastors Paul Smith, Ron Edwards, Ron Clemow and the writer, was a tribute to a dearly loved and caring pastor and had contributions from Union president Pastor C. R. Perry and Pastor Bertie de Nysschen, in the presence of other pastoral colleagues, family and friends (from as far afield as Johannesburg). It was a matter of pride to Maurice that both Denise and Maurice (Jnr) are committed to ministry (serving at Adventist Risk Management and studying at Newbold for the Gospel ministry, respectively). Maurice's interment in the slaty ground of a Bodmin graveyard on a heavily raining day (22 July) will stand in stark and dramatic contrast to that bright resurrection morning when the 'Son of Righteousness' himself will call our dear brother forth into the glorious light of eternity.

RICHARD J. B. WILLIS

Theunie, Denise, Maurice, Esta, Keturah and Jed Cuthbert acknowledge with thanks the beautiful floral tributes and cards, and the attendance of so many friends at the funeral service.

## SEC Counselling Service

Eight years ago the Adventist-run Counselling Service was set up for church members. Operating from the Advent Centre in Central London, with just five qualified counsellors, the service has grown steadily ever since from a telephone helpline to a respected and well-used service with ten counsellors. In addition to live telephone counselling on Monday evenings and Thursday mornings there is also a thriving face-to-face counselling service in our new suite of offices.

We changed our name to offer an increased appeal to non-Adventist family members and friends. After much research and discussion, the name **Cornerstone Counselling Service** was adopted. The phone number **0845 7413602** remains unchanged.

Those interested in training as counsellors and joining our service should contact Trudy Young, SEC Counselling Service Co-ordinator, 25 St John's Road, Watford WD1 1WD. Email: [tyoung@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:tyoung@secadventist.org.uk).

# STOP International Project 2004

by Kish Poddar, Executive secretary, STOP International

The meeting place was London Heathrow, Terminal 4, for the volunteers of STOP International. The time, 7.30am on Sunday 25 July 2004.

For these volunteers a thrilling adventure was about to begin. This enthusiastic group financed their own airfare, living and transportation expenses to travel to India for two weeks to finish two projects funded by STOP International. One was the establishment of a new orphanage building on almost half an acre of land. The second was the construction of a kitchen and dining-room for an existing orphanage.

In the little village of Athilvadi, the volunteers to prepare the kitchen and dining-room for use by the seventeen orphans at the Captain Azariah's children's home. In addition, in the village of Madhakhondipalli, they would set up a play area for the orphans in the grounds of the *Anbu Illam* (Love Home) children's home and establish a garden. This facility serves as the permanent home for ten orphan children, Paul the director and his wife Shaini. Their previous accommodation was one room in a rented house.

The first days' work involved painting the inner and outer walls of the kitchen and dining-room, windows, window grilles, doors, parapet and railings at the Captain Azariah children's home, which the twenty-six volunteers enthusiastically undertook. It is worth mentioning that the walls to be painted were finished in cement and the local paint was not Dulux One-coat emulsion but more

akin to a very watery lime-based distemper, applied with 4-inch brushes. Three coats are required to give the desired effect.

We coped with dust, ants the size of London buses and deadly scorpions as part of the preparation, another reminder that we were not in leafy suburbia. On the second day six of us were hit by a mysterious bug, so for one day the workforce was reduced, though they quickly recovered. Much was still accomplished and the facility was beginning to look like home. Next we needed to start work at the *Anbu Illam*, where the slide and swings were set in concrete and then painted. These were a gift from Grundschule Katzenfurt. The furniture that was ordered for the children received a colourful coat of paint. We needed to agree the boundaries of the land purchased in order for a fence to be erected. The land surveyor arrived and with the agreement of the adjacent land owners, marked out the boundary of the property, four tenths of an acre.

On the first Sabbath the volunteers joined with the BESSO orphans (recipients of an orphanage from STOP in 2002) and had a delicious Indian lunch presented on banana leaves, eaten in the traditional way with fingers. We spent the rest of the afternoon playing with the children, during which time all the children were given a medical check by the STOP volunteer doctor and his team of nurses. We also set up the slide for the children, funded from a private donation.

The following day all twenty-six of us were back at work painting the walls, door frames and windows. During the morning break the chief of the village came and invited about a dozen of us to his home. The hospitality shown by him moved everyone who went. He offered hot drinks, bananas, and roasted groundnuts. After lunch, while half the volunteers continued painting, the other half drove the fifteen kilometres which separated the two orphanages, to plant fruit trees in the grounds of the *Anbu Illam*. Coconut palms, mango, guava, pomegranate, sapota, jackfruit and custard apple saplings were bought and planted, not only to provide nourishment from their fruits for the children but also to raise income for them in the future. These were a private gift. The swings and slide also got a second coat of paint and the ten children were given blankets, buckets, mugs, stainless steel plates (*thalli*), glasses and towels that were given by the Sleaford Lionesses.

The next day the group was split into three. One group worked on the kitchen and dining-room, finishing off the painting, while another group went to BESSO to paint the slide and gate, and work on the plumbing. For those finishing the kitchen and dining-room, during the morning we convened an impromptu England v. India test match. Competition was fierce, rules strictly enforced, laughs all round and it all ended in a mutually agreed draw, with big smiles on everyone's face.

Finally, the five bicycles which had been



ordered for BESSO two days earlier were ready to be picked up from the shop, so after lunch four of the bikes were loaded into a van and driven back while the fifth one was ridden back to the BESSO home, a risky business on those pothole-ridden, cow-infested and rickshaw-dominated Indian roads. But the task was handled with great expertise. When the children returned from school that day their eyes were popping out of their heads at the sight of the brand-new bikes which were all theirs to enjoy. These were paid for by yet another private donation.

Having completed the objectives at all three sites, the buildings were ready to be dedicated. On Friday we met at the *Anbu Illam* for this happy occasion. Pastor Christo, the secretary of STOP India, gave a moving dedicatory homily and Naomi Burgess, the youngest member of the team, cut the ribbon to declare the home open. The facility has a kitchen, a dining-room, two bedrooms and a bathroom. The nearly half-acre plot of land has

adequate space for the kitchen garden, future expansion and play area for the children. There was a large crowd of local people for the dedication, primarily because that was also the day that Paul (the orphanage director) was going to marry Shaini, his bride-to-be by arrangement. The ceremony took place in the village marriage hall to which all STOP International volunteers were special guests. The reception that followed was at the orphanage, and what a feast it was!

On our last Sabbath afternoon the volunteers drove the thirty kilometres to the Captain Azariah home for the dedication of the kitchen and dining-room. Dr Gordon Christo, the Education director of the Southern Asia Division, gave a stimulating talk and Naomi declared the facility open.





# United Bible Societies World Conference

by Dr Brian Phillips

A meeting of the World Assembly of Bible Societies took place at the Celtic Manor Convention Centre in Newport, Wales, 23-27 August. Time was also taken to commemorate the two-hundredth anniversary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the mother of all Bible Societies. Honour was also given to Mary Jones, whose story inspired the establishing of the Society.

Today there are 140 Bible Societies working in over 200 countries. In 1932 the idea was put forward that it would be good for the Bible Societies to join together so that expertise could be shared. For example, the British Bible Society has a department that advises printers who use thin paper. Others have expertise in language or distribution. Today a total of 25 million Bibles and 600,000,000 portions of Scripture are printed every year by the Bible Societies! Their aim? The widest possible distribution of Scripture at the lowest cost. But they admit that there is an unfinished task in translating the Bible. Their aim is to produce Scriptures for individual language groups – the whole Bible for languages with 500,000 users, portions for those languages with 250,000 users, and verses for those languages with under 100,000 users. At present they produce work in around twenty-three new languages every year. Work is also being undertaken on the Hebrew and Greek text.

One of the projects initiated at a previous assembly came out of a desire to produce the Bible in a medium other than the printed page. 'Faith comes by Hearing' came out

of this initiative, and audio tapes of the New Testament have now found their way into many languages. The director of Hosanna, a working partner of the Bible Societies, told the writer that Adventists have distributed many of these tapes in some areas of the world, but more could benefit from hearing the Word.

It was a privilege for me to be asked by Pastor C. R. Perry to represent him and the Church at this gathering. When I was identified from the platform as an Adventist, it seemed that everyone around wanted to tell of their relationship with the Church in their part of the world. José López from Havana, General secretary of the Cuban Biblical Commission, told of the excellent support he is given by Adventists in his work. Roman Vovk, General secretary of the Ukrainian Bible Society in Kiev, came with his wife, both Adventists, and told me of their work in producing Bibles in print in Ukrainian and Russian and the New Testament on CD. The Board chairman of the Latvian Bible Society, Ojars Incenbergs, is also an Adventist, as is the General secretary of the Bible Society of Uganda, Henry Kalule, and another Adventist is the Executive secretary of the Bible Society of Lesotho – Inahaneng Tsekana.

One thing that could be noticed at this World Assembly was the respect for the Adventist Church's work in many countries. Several made the statement that we are 'to be found everywhere'.



Year 6 Day 9am to 4pm  
Thursday 25th November 2004  
Open Evening 4pm to 5pm

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**November at Lewisham church Youth Emphasis Month**  
Artists: Anthony Fuller, Joyous Symphony, John Mathieu, music by Rooted, Lewisham Gospel Choir. Come along and bring your non-Adventist friends and former members.

### ABC BOOK SALES

**November**  
7 John Loughborough 10am-2pm  
28 West Midlands 10am-2pm

**December**  
5 Manchester South 10am-1pm  
12 John Loughborough 10am-2pm

### Messenger

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### Sunset

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	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Nov 5	4.26	4.38	4.26	4.23	4.39
12	4.15	4.27	4.14	4.10	4.26
19	4.06	4.18	4.04	3.58	4.16
26	3.59	4.11	3.56	3.49	4.07

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
John Loughborough School Speech Night	21 November 3pm	Gladesmore Community School, Gladesmore Road, London N15 6TJ		Tel: Yvonne Gordon 0208 808 7837
In the Beginning . . . musical extravaganza	21 November 4pm	Albert Hall Institute North Circus Street, Nottingham NG1 5AA	Mark Bunney, Blessed Voices, Ayolah, Alan Charles, George & Victor Acquah	Tickets £10. Call Nottingham Playhouse Box Office, Tel: 0115 941 9419
'Love Connects' Marriage retreat for couples who want to deepen their spiritual intimacy	12-14 November	Highgate House, Creaton, Northampton	Bernie and Karen Holford, SEC Family Ministries	Tel Janet Guthrie on 01923 232728 or email <a href="mailto:jguthrie@secadventist.org.uk">jguthrie@secadventist.org.uk</a>
Stanborough School Year 6 Day	Thursday 25 November 9-3.30	Stanborough School		Contact Lorena Simionescu on 01923 673268 or email at <a href="mailto:lsimionescu@stanboroughpark.herts.sch.uk">lsimionescu@stanboroughpark.herts.sch.uk</a>

Please submit advertisements in this format. Please make the church connection clear. For a complete list of upcoming events check out the database on the BUC website, [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk).